



Advisory Committee on Water Information  
2002 Annual Meeting: April 2-3, 2002  
Days Hotel and Conference Center  
Herndon, VA

## **Action Items**

### **ACWI Annual Meeting, April 2002**

#### **ACTION ITEM – *Laboratory Accreditation***

ACWI members unanimously adopted the revised recommendations of the Methods and Data Comparability Board (MDCB) on Laboratory Accreditation, including:

- (1) All Federal agencies (and commercial laboratories employed by Federal agencies) performing analytical water testing, as part of compliance or ambient monitoring programs, be accredited under a recognized program, in order to better establish comparability of data and to meet the needs of specific Federal agency programs.
- (2) The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) is the recommended program of the Methods and Data Comparability Board.
- (3) The Board will periodically re-evaluate NELAP's suitability to serve as a national accreditation program in order: (a) to review the status of their progress in these efforts; and (b) to encourage state, Federal, and private participation in NELAP.

In addition, the ACWI agreed that:

- The MDCB should provide an announcement about Laboratory Accreditation appropriate to publish in a wide range of newsletters, including those of all ACWI member organizations.
- ACWI member agencies and organizations should make every effort to publish this information as broadly as possible.
- The Board should indicate to the Federal agencies the actions they anticipate those agencies should carry out regarding Laboratory Accreditation.

#### **ACTION ITEM – *Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable (SWRR)***

ACWI members endorsed the coordination and cooperation of Federal agencies and non-federal organizations to work on the issues of water sustainability.

- The SWRR was accepted as an ad hoc sub-committee of ACWI, based on the proposed Terms of Reference, which will be circulated to the subcommittee for revision.
- A Steering Committee is meeting via conference call to plan the first SWR Roundtable, which is being planned for October 2002, providing that sufficient funding can be obtained.

#### **ACTION ITEM – *Trends in Support of Water Resources Activities***

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has requested that ACWI Federal agencies cooperate with the USGS Water Information Coordination Program, to compile information on changes in programs and trends in funding of water-related activities, and document such trends in a consistent format.

- Toni Johnson, Chief WICP and Exec Sec ACWI will work with ACWI Federal members to identify appropriate agency staff to work on this exercise.
- Every effort will be made to use existing data and information, and to work via conference call, supplemented by email and fax.

- The effort will likely begin in the fall of 2002 and continue to the spring 2003 ACWI meeting.
- An effort will be made to reflect trends over the past 3-6 years (FY 98-FY 03).

**ACTION ITEM – *Streamgaging Task Force Report***

The Report of ACWI's Streamgaging Task Force was distributed and summarized for the first time at the ACWI 2002 annual meeting. ACWI member organizations requested more time for review and comment on the report before considering it for endorsement.

- WICP will send the Streamgaging Report to all ACWI members for comment (sent by email May 9, 2002).
- Members were asked to provide written comments to Tom Yorke, SGTF Co-Chair by Mid-June, 2002 (several comments received).
- Comments are currently being reviewed. Since most are editorial or informational, it does not appear that a Conference call will be needed.
- USGS is work with the Association of State Flood Plain Managers, to address some of their issues regarding the Report.
- The Task Force will revise the Report and prepare a Response to comments.
- The revised Report and Response will be sent out to all ACWI member organizations in late summer.
- Formal approval by ACWI will be requested by email vote.

**ACTION ITEM – *Water Quality Data Elements (WQDE)***

The Water Quality Data Elements, proposed by the Methods and Data Comparability Board through the National Water Quality Monitoring Council, and adopted as voluntary standards at the FY 2001 ACWI meeting, are proposed for adoption as EPA Data Standards, per a recommendation of the Environmental Data Standards Committee, a joint EPA-state committee. Comments will be received through a Federal Register Notice, published on \_\_\_\_\_.

**ACTION ITEM – *National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI)***

The Alternate Chair of the ACWI, Robert M. Hirsch, Associate Director for Water at the U.S. Geological Survey; and James Hanlon, then Acting Administrator of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, agreed to co-sign a letter in conjunction with the Public release of the NEMI. NEMI was proposed by the Methods and Data Comparability Board, through the National Water Quality Monitoring Council, and was unanimously adopted at the FY 2001 ACWI meeting. The database had since been populated with over X00 methods, from the USGS, USEPA, Waste Management Institute, and various other Federal and private sector laboratories, under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

**ACTION ITEM – *Tribal Communications***

ACWI members, both Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, were asked to assist the National Water Quality Monitoring Council to facilitate communications on with Tribal organizations on water quality monitoring, by providing access to existing networks and mailing lists. Suggestions and offers of support were received from several ACWI member organizations, including:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- DOI Bureau of Reclamation,
- American Water Works Association,
- Water Environment Federation,
- Conservation Technology Information Center, and
- National Association of Counties; and from the

- Intertribal Council of Arizona, through the National Water Quality Monitoring Council.

The WICP will work with these organizations to increase communications to and encourage participation of the tribes regarding ACWI-sponsored activities, especially:

- Training opportunities at the 4<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference (2004)
- Participation in State and Regional Monitoring Councils
- Distribution of resource materials on monitoring

#### **ACTION ITEM - *Water Issues for Homeland Security***

Consider an ACWI-sponsored forum on The Science and Technology for Water Security, focusing on research and development, new technologies, and tools - both available and needed - to protect water infrastructure and water information.

#### **ACTION ITEM – *Consideration of a Possible Fall/Winter Meeting of the ACWI***

The ACWI members expressed interest in the possibility of an additional meeting in the late fall or winter of 2003, depending on availability of resources, to continue to address developing recommendations and topics of interest, including:

- Implementation of the Recommendations of the Cooperative Water Program, especially regarding the appropriate role of the Federal sector in activities in which the private sector is also engaged (e.g., Total Maximum Daily Loads, Flood Forecasting and Mapping).
- Approval and implementation of the Recommendations of the ACWI *Streamgaging Task Force* regarding a National Streamflow Information Program.
- Update and next steps on enhanced Tribal communications.
- Reports from the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Monitoring Conference (May 2002), the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable (Oct 2002?), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> TMDL Science and Policy Conference (Nov 2002).
- Special Interest Issues including:
  - Water Security
  - Drought and Fire
  - Ecosystem and Human Health